

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND EXCHANGE - UZBEKISTAN



Global Connections and Exchange is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State

PROGRAM NEWS JUNE 2006

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **TECH AGE GIRLS-2 FINALISTS IMPART AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING LESSONS**
- **STUDENTS FIND WAYS TO ADVANCE GLOBAL EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTIVISM**
- **BROTHERS FROM FERGHANA WIN US EMBASSY ESSAY CONTEST**
- **TERMEZ AND ANDIJAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AN END OF THE YEAR PROJECT WITH PEERS IN MASSACHUSETTS**
- **STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM FREE INTERNET ACCESS AT GLOBAL CONNECTIONS COMPUTER CLASSROOMS THROUGHOUT UZBEKISTAN**
- **TEACHERS' CORNER**
- **STUDENTS' CORNER**
- **FUNDRAISING UPDATES**

Tech Age Girls-2 Finalists Share and Implement Innovative Leadership and Training Lessons



Since April 1, the 36 finalists and semi-finalists of Tech Age Girls-2 (TAG2) have advanced their skills in technology and gained insight from one another on leadership strategies by meeting online for weekly discussions. Five TAG-1 finalists also provided lessons from their experience.

On June 13, the 14 TAG2 finalists discussed the topic "How I Help my Friends, Classmates, School, and Community Learn Information Technology" at

(http://www.connect.uz/children_forum/index.php?showtopic=799).

Participants shared personal experiences of providing group and individual training and consultations to classmates, friends, and community members. Nukus School No. 32 tenth-grade student, Darya Ten, discovered that using IT in English classes, simultaneously improves students' English language and computer skills. She suggested that teachers could follow her experience by adding elements of computer games into lesson plans as she did when teaching her peers. She recommends the Mr. English website (<http://www.mrenglish.ru/common>). Margilan School No. 9 eleventh-grade student, Dilshoda Rasulova, provided consultation to her teachers. She reported "as a result of my lessons, our history teacher is now able to work independently with Microsoft Office. She uses the programs to prepare materials and print documents."

On June 9, Bulakbashi School No. 43 ninth-grade student, Yulduz Kobilova, organized a forum featuring Diyora Karimova, a FLEX 05 alumna, who currently is studying at Tashkent State Law College. Participants seized the opportunity to learn from Karimov about studying abroad. Among other topics, students inquired about the US education system, how students study, what subjects are taught, and the difference in education for boys and girls. Diyora highlighted that, "one of the main differences between our schools and in the US is that in the US, students can choose their schedule and elective classes." Yulduz met Diyora through the TakingITGlobal website where Diyora shared her experience taking exams at Deer Park High School in Washington. The other TAG2 finalists shared interest in meeting Diyora so they decided to utilize the forums to meet virtually.



The girls have also used the forum to discuss topics from the the role of the Internet in studying to plagiarism. The Tech Age Girls project is changing girls' views of themselves. Margilan School No.9, eleventh-grade student, Dilshoda Rasulova, wrote, "When I first started attending the web design course, I doubted that I could learn it, but after several trainings I found I could. I have since realized that women are just as capable as men at acquiring IT skills."



Tech Age Girls presented their websites at the opening of the Tashkent summer workshop.

Having connected to their peers through online debates and discussion, the 14 Tech Age Girls finalists were ready to take on the project's next stage. On June 25, the 14

TAG2 finalists arrived in Tashkent, where they will participate in full-time, intensive training and serve in tech-related internships at lead companies and organizations for two weeks.

Students Find Ways to Advance Global Education and Youth Activism

On June 13, international youth development expert Lola Ibragimova, who currently works with the World Bank's youth programs in Central Asia, led a live forum to discuss global education and ways in which youth can become involved in making change in their communities. She was joined in the discussion by nearly 50 students, teachers and administrators to discuss how the Global Connection and Exchange program has affected their education, computer and language skills, and role within the international community.

Maftuna Farmonova of School No. 34 in Karshi City, Uzbekistan, shared her views on the advantages of global exchanges. "Global education is the best way to explore the world, find peers and friends in other countries, and learn about their cultures, as well as material useful for our all of our futures." Students referred to conversations they have had regarding important issues such as pollution and war. Students also shared ideas of how they could become more engaged in their communities and why this was important to them. Bahrom, a student from Karshi Boarding School No.115, expressed



Youth development expert Lola Ibragimova joined students to discuss global education.

his impressions, "the future is the youth...the condition of living and future development of the country depends on our actions." Ibragimova agreed, adding that "young people who are taught to be open minded, tolerant and active citizens, who care about what is going on in their communities, will make a huge difference in the way their country develops."

Students were eager to learn how they could become more involved in their country and asked Ibragimova about the work she is pursuing for youth in Central Asia. One student inquired about specifically how young people can become involved in global education. Ibragimova responded that it all begins with the desire to learn; thereafter, students will find endless sources of information. "This forum is one example of how modern technology allows young people to participate in global educational experiences," Ibragimova remarked. "It provides an array of resources from teachers to conference information." Ibragimova encouraged students and teachers to continue impacting both the global community and their own through their work and outreach efforts.

Brothers from Ferghana Win US Embassy Essay Contest

On June 1, the US Embassy in Uzbekistan awarded the Ovcharenko brothers the "2006 Global Issues Student Essay Competition." Yaroslav Ovcharenko, an eighth-grade student, and Sergey Ovcharenko, a third-year university student, are both active volunteers at the Ferghana School No. 40 computer classroom. The brothers utilized the Internet and e-mail to prepare and apply to the essays contest. Yaroslav, who is also a participant of the iEARN PEARL project for young journalists, won for his essay "United States of America: Through the Eyes of an Uzbek Student." Sergey, who previously participated in GCE's Modern Lesson Plan contest, won for his essay "The Role of the Internet in Modern Societies," in which he describes the GCE computer classrooms and activities in Ferghana. John R. Purnell, the US Ambassador and David G. Fay, the Regional English Language Officer, presented the brothers with certificates, books, and notebook computers.



Yaroslav Ovcharenko from Ferghana School No. 40 with his prize computer

Termez and Andijan Students Participate in an End of the Year Project with Peers in Massachusetts



Students from Termez School No. 10, Andijan School No. 2, and Easthampton High School in Massachusetts exchange messages and photos through the GCE online forum.

Students from Termez School No. 10 and Andijan School No. 2 conducted five collaborative GCE online projects this school year with US partner schools. These efforts enhanced students' knowledge about each other's cultures, histories and perspectives. On June 8, twelve ninth and tenth-grade students and three English teachers in Uzbekistan met online through a project with students from Easthampton High School in Massachusetts and their history teacher, Kelley Brown, to close out the academic year and draw conclusions from the schools' collaborative projects (<http://www.connectuz.net/index.php?showtopic=453&st=0>).

Between September and May, students in Uzbekistan and the United States learned about their peers' classes, hobbies, cultures, and traditions through GCE online projects, including "Our Communities, Ourselves." For this project, students posted five pictures depicting items or places that represented themselves or their hometowns, to discuss and show life as teenager in their respective countries. Students also examined global social issues such as, human trafficking and refugee issues. They examined their governments' efforts to prevent these problems and evaluated how these issues are treated internationally. During their research, students from Termez School No. 10 engaged with Istikballi Avlod, a local NGO that organizes seminars on human trafficking awareness.

With their shared online project experience as the backdrop for the conversation, students used the June 8 live forum to discuss the results of past projects, new skills and knowledge they aquired, hopes for the coming year's projects, and their plans for summer vacation. Kimyo Yusupova, an English teacher from Jalolkuduk (Andijan) School No. 25, joined in from China. Yusupova, who is presently working in China, launched the project in Massachusetts with Kelley Brown. Shared one Easthampton student, "I enjoyed posting on the forum. It allowed us to connect with students on the other side of the world." By reflecting on the past year's activities and chatting about life, the students continued to build meaningful relationships, develop global thinking, and gain a recognition of the need for international cooperation.

Students, Teachers, Parents, and Community Members Benefit from Free Internet Access at Global Connections Computer Classrooms throughout Uzbekistan

Each day thousands of users benefit by having free access to the Internet through the GCE-supported computer classrooms in 40 schools throughout Uzbekistan. In a country where only a small percentage of the population has a computer, the free Internet access makes a significant contribution to the development of the schools and communities.

- From May 29 to June 3, Ferghana School No. 40 eighth-grade student, Yaroslav Ovcharenko, and Bulakbashi School No. 43 ninth-grade student, Shoyadbek Abdurasulov, joined over 80 media representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan to take part in *The Fourth Annual International Forum of Young Journalists of Pokolenie.KZ (Generation.KZ)*. The students learned of, applied, and prepared for the conference through their GCE computer classrooms. The conference themes included: TV and Children, the Internet, and How to Succeed in Children's/Youth Media.



Yaroslav Ovcharenko's diploma for outstanding participation in the young journalists' forum

Participants explored social problems related to children with AIDS and gained professional skills, while learning to edit an Internet based newspaper. Shoyadbek, a volunteer of two years at the computer classroom, said, "This event gave me many ideas. I decided to organize an Internet club for my school for student journalists." In August 2005, Shoyadbek participated in New Generation's training on children's rights in Ferghana, another opportunity he discovered while in the computer lab.

- On June 8, Arslon Ermatov, history teacher and 2003 Community Connections Program alumni, and ninth-grade student, Farruh Esanov, officially initiated their online club "Edu-club" at Termez School No. 11. Six teachers and nine students are already

club members. At the opening, they shared the club's purpose, tasks, and rules, as well as websites for users seeking advocacy information and places to connect with others (<http://takingitglobal.org>, www.youthaction.net, www.connect.uz). Ermatov and Farruh established the club to provide regionally located teachers and students ample opportunities to partake in online contests and projects during their summer vacations and to provide online consultations to interested teachers and students in remote areas. Building on the three year relationship between Termez School No.11 and the John Muir School in San Diego, California, the two schools will participate in an online forum from July 1 to 15 to discuss the *National Educational Computing Conference* that will be held from July 5 to 7 in San Diego, CA.

- On June 3, Ferghana School No. 2 won the prize "Best Care of Home Flowers," at the Regional Flower Exhibition, a competition entered by over 20 organizations. The school's parent committee member, Nazira Mukhtarova, and information science teacher, Anna Bus, made this success possible through their close collaboration. Over the past four months, Mukhtarova participated in six seminars on computer and Internet basics conducted by Bus. Using the Internet, Mukhtarova found information related to plant care, reproduction, classification and diseases, which helped her to improve and expand her plant collection at home. "Using the computer classroom of Ferghana School No.2, I had the opportunity to use the Internet where I found invaluable information which cannot be found in elsewhere."



Spectators take time to smell the roses at the flower exhibition in Ferghana

- On June 14, Narymbet Otambekov, an active community member and user of the GCE computer classroom at [Nukus Gymnasium No. 1](#), conducted a meeting with eight ninth-grade students. The meeting was devoted to discussing the first of an eight-stage trip he is planning to make around the world. Student volunteers, Arkadii Ovcherenko and Aleksei Semenov, helped Otambekov create a website, which Otambekov has been using over the past two years, to gather resources and find contacts for his travels (<http://nukus1.connect.uz/narot>). Otambekov's seminar shared not only his travels, but also the role the Internet plays in his endeavor. He shared that using the Internet put him into contact with people from many countries and through these connections, he was invited to participate in the region, as a historian, and also became involved with the Institutes of history, archeology, and ethnography at the Academy of Science of Uzbekistan.

Teachers' Corner



Teachers in all the Global Connections regions have been actively using their Global Connections computer classroom to update their lesson plans and connect with the community. Below are the some examples of their activities.

- On June 1, Namangan School No.1's Russian and Literature teacher, Roza Kazakbaeva, held a presentation for teachers from Namangan Schools No. 34, 48, 2 and 1 of her website *Odin Shag po Namanganu* (One step through Namangan) at the GCE computer classroom at Namangan School No. 34. Her website, apart of the Teachers Workshop project (http://namangan1.connect.uz/roza_pedmaster), covers

Namangan City's history. "This site compiles valuable information about Namangan, which is difficult to find in history textbooks and other sources," said history teacher Abdukahhor Bustanov, from Namangan School-Internat No.2. "This information will be especially helpful for history lessons dedicated to Kokand khanate."



Roza Kazakbaeva works on her site

- On June 7, Elena Mukhtarova from Ferghana School No.2 introduced ten of her fellow English teachers to using WebQuests in lessons. Teachers had the opportunity to learn about Mukhtarova's success and learned about WebQuest methodology. The participants also received new online resources to supplement their lessons. For practice, the group used one task on the WebQuest, "Protest songs of the 60s" to work in groups as singers, journalists, students, and pacifists to discuss and address how music played a role in the American anti-war and civil rights movements in the 1960s. Larisa Denisova, the head of the curriculum department of their school, was supportive. She suggested that all teachers include WebQuests in their lesson plans.
- On June 12, Tatyana Krilova from Nukus Gymnasium No.1 created a website for other primary school teachers dedicated to speech development. The 21-page website, at <http://nukus1.connect.uz/tk/index.html>, includes methodological materials and a PowerPoint presentation. Krilova addresses speech development by having students create stories with pictures and plots. The website resulted from her participation in the GCE Teachers' Workshop, but would not have been possible without the skills she gained by her participation in GCE's Modern Lesson Plan contest in September 2005.
- On June 9, Nukus School No.31's Karakalpak language teacher, Klara Utebaeva, won the "Best Science Teacher of 2006" award. The Uzbekistan Ministry of Public Education awards teachers who successfully implement elements of modern teaching technology into their lesson plans. Utebaeva's regular participation in the GCE Modern Lesson Plan contests enhanced her teaching qualifications. She first learned of the GCE Modern Lesson Plan contest through teachers of other participating schools, who gave presentations on their lesson plans which incorporated IT. Utebaeva became interested in using the Internet and eventually developed a lesson plan for eighth-grade students on the "Historical Essays of Berdakh." This lesson uses interactive games and resources from the global connections e-library.

Students' Corner

Students in all the Global Connections regions have been actively using their Global Connections computer classrooms to learn and connect with the community. Below are some examples of their activities:

- On June 2, Nurbek Djuraev, a ninth-grade student and computer classroom volunteer, from Karshi School No. 34, was awarded as "The Best Expert of Computer Technologies" by the school director for his active participation in the School Computer Classroom activities this year. Djuraev was among the first members of his school's English language and computer club, "Umid." He contributed significantly to the club's development, attracted more students to the club, and consulted others on using the Internet. As a participant of the international Mondialogo School Contest 2005-2006, Djuraev also created a website about Uzbekistan

(<http://karshi34.connect.uz/uzbekistan/index.htm>). “Due to my participation in the functioning of our school’s Computer Classroom, I learned to use information technologies in lessons,” he commented, “I also help others to use classroom resources more effectively.”

Fundraising updates



Parent Committees and school administrators have been working closely to ensure the long-term viability of their schools’ computer classrooms. During June, schools arranged a series of activities that generated funding directed towards maintaining equipment and resources. At some schools, parents organized fundraising events, while at others computer services were offered as part of schools’ business plans.

On June 6, Karshi School No. 12 parent’s committee organized a trip for students to Shaxrisabz City. The trip generated 15,000 soums (\$1=1,200 soums), which was spent to replace a stolen phone cable. Nelli Gagloeva, chairman of the parent committee, the school administration and parent committee initiate this fundraising event to replace the stolen phone cable, which left the GCE computer classroom without Internet. As a result of their efforts, Internet access has been restored.

In June, Ferghana School No. 2 earned 35,000 soums by offering after-school services such as printing, scanning, digital photography, and computer access. Of the revenue, 7,000 soums went to purchase paper, while the remainder was put aside in an accumulating fund to support GCE computer classroom expenses.

Likewise, Margilan School No. 9 earned 6,300 soums by providing computer services for community users. Ibragim Tursunov, the school’s information science teacher supervised this activity after school. The funds were used to purchase printer paper.

On May 25, Ferghana Schools No. 2 and 28 organized fund-raiser concerts devoted to the traditional “last bell,” which marks the last official day of school for graduates of elementary, junior high, and high school. In preparation, School No. 2’s organization committee used scripts from Internet sites so that GCE computer classroom volunteers could create invitations, which they sold for 100 soums a piece. They raised 5,000 soums used for paper for the GCE computer classroom. Ferghana School No. 28 parent committee members conducted their concert with students performing Arab dances. They studied and learned the dances through websites. (<http://arabskie.info> and <http://www.dens.fotodisk.ru/vostok.htm>). The organizers earned 6,500 soums from ticket sales, which went towards paper and flipcharts for the GCE computer classroom.